

CR100852

CLAIMS

That which is claimed is:

1. (Amended) A balloon catheter comprising:

a catheter body comprising at least one tubular member

- 5 having [a] an outer tubular wall and having a lumen extending throughout the length of the tubular member, said tubular member further having a proximal end and a distal end;

- an inflatable balloon having a main body portion, a proximal portion, and a distal portion, said proximal portion  
10 and said distal portion extending from said main body portion, said distal portion of the balloon being bonded to the tubular member near the distal end of the tubular member and said proximal portion of the balloon being bonded to the tubular member proximal to the distal portion of the balloon, said  
15 inflatable balloon being formed from a gas-permeable material;

a coupling member having a lumen extending therethrough, said coupling member being mounted on the proximal end of the tubular member and the lumen of the coupling member communicating with the lumen of the tubular member;

- 20 a syringe coupled to said coupling member for applying a liquid within the lumen of the tubular member; and,

at least one <sup>vent</sup> aperture for purging air from said lumen of the catheter body, said aperture extending radially through said outer tubular wall of the tubular member at a [point] location

proximal [to] of the proximal portion of the inflatable balloon.

2. A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 1, wherein said aperture is circular and has a diameter between approximately  
5 .0005 inches and .0014 inches.

3. A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 2, wherein said aperture is circular and has a diameter of approximately 0.0010 inches.

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4. (Amended) A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 2, wherein [said liquid applied within the lumen of the tubular member exerts a fluid pressure between about 20 psi and 45 psi and thereby causes air to pass through the aperture] said aperture  
15 is of a size to permit the flow of air through the aperture  
while ~~permitting~~ <sup>restricting</sup> the flow of a liquid through the aperture.

5. A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 4, wherein said inflatable balloon is placed within a protective tube thereby  
20 restricting the ability of the balloon to inflate.

6. (Amended) A balloon catheter comprising:  
a catheter body including an outer tubular member having  
[a] an outer tubular wall and having a lumen extending

throughout the length of the outer tubular member, said outer tubular member further having a proximal end and a distal end;

said catheter body further including an inner tubular member having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen

5 extending therethrough, said inner tubular member being disposed coaxially through said lumen of the outer tubular member;

an inflatable balloon having a main body portion, a proximal portion, and a distal portion, said proximal portion and said distal portion extending from said main body portion,  
10 said proximal portion of the balloon being bonded to the distal end of the outer tubular member and the distal portion of the balloon being bonded to the distal end of the inner tubular member, said inflatable balloon being formed from a gas-permeable material;

15 a coupling member having a lumen extending therethrough, said coupling member being mounted on the proximal end of the outer tubular member and the lumen of the coupling member communicating with the lumen between the outer tubular member and the inner tubular member;

20 a syringe coupled to said coupling member for applying a liquid within the lumen of the outer tubular member; and,

at least one <sup>vent</sup> aperture for purging air from said lumen of the catheter body, said aperture extending radially through said outer tubular wall of the outer tubular member at a [point]

location proximal [to] of the proximal end of the inflatable  
balloon.

7. A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 6, wherein said  
5 aperture is circular and has a diameter between approximately  
.0005 inches and .0014 inches.

8. A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 7, wherein said  
aperture is circular and has a diameter of approximately 0.0010  
10 inches.

9. (Amended) A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 7, wherein  
[said liquid applied within the lumen of the outer tubular  
member exerts a fluid pressure between about 20 psi and 45 psi  
15 and thereby causes air to pass through the aperture] said  
aperture is of a size to permit the flow of air through the  
aperture while ~~permitting~~ <sup>restricting</sup> the flow of a liquid through the  
aperture.

20 10. A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 9, wherein said  
inflatable balloon is placed within a protective tube thereby  
restricting the ability of the balloon to inflate.

11. (Amended) A balloon catheter comprising:

a catheter body comprising at least one tubular member having [a] an outer tubular wall and having a lumen extending throughout the length of the tubular member, said tubular member further having a proximal end and a distal end;

5 an inflatable balloon having a main body portion, a proximal portion, and a distal portion, said proximal portion and said distal portion extending from said main body portion, said distal portion of the balloon being bonded to the tubular member near the distal end of the tubular member and said  
10 proximal portion of the balloon being bonded to the tubular member proximal to the distal portion of the balloon;

a coupling member having a lumen extending therethrough, said coupling member being mounted on the proximal end of the tubular member and the lumen of the coupling member  
15 communicating with the lumen of the tubular member such that a liquid may be applied within the lumen of the tubular member; and,

at least one <sup>vent</sup> aperture for purging air from said lumen of the catheter body, said aperture extending radially through said  
20 outer wall of the tubular member at a [point] location proximal [to] of the proximal portion of the inflatable balloon.

12. A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 11, wherein said aperture is circular and has a diameter between approximately

.0005 inches and .0014 inches.

13. A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 12, wherein said  
aperture is circular and has a diameter of approximately 0.0010  
5 inches.

14. A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 12, wherein said  
liquid applied within the lumen of the tubular member exerts a  
fluid pressure between about 20 psi and 45 psi and thereby  
10 causes air to pass through the aperture.

15. A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 14, wherein said  
inflatable balloon is placed within a protective tube thereby  
restricting the ability of the balloon to inflate.

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16. A balloon catheter as defined in Claim 15, wherein said  
inflatable balloon is formed of a gas-permeable material.

17. CANCEL

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